

1. **Question:** What is the College Bound Scholarship?

Answer: College Bound is an early commitment of state funding created to improve high school graduation and college enrollment rates for low-income students. It encourages students who might not otherwise consider college because of the cost to dream big and continue their education beyond high school.

2. **Question:** Who is eligible to apply?

Answer: 7th and 8th grade students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, all foster youth, and students from families that meet the income requirements. Students must apply by June 30 at the end of their 8th grade year.

3. **Question:** What is the College Bound pledge?

Answer: When students apply for the program, they promise to:

- Graduate from a Washington high school with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- Be a good citizen and not be convicted of a felony.
- Apply to an eligible college and submit the Free Application for Federal State Aid (FAFSA) to determine income eligibility.

4. **Question:** What are the requirements to receive and retain the scholarship?

Answer: Recipients must:

- Graduate from a Washington State high school; GEDs do not qualify.
- File the FAFSA each year they are in college to determine income eligibility, which is 65% of the median family income. In 2014-15, the maximum income for a family of four is \$54,000.
- Enroll in college within one year of high school graduation.
- Use the scholarship within five years of high school graduation. (College Bound is a four-year scholarship.)
- Be a United States citizen or eligible non-citizen.
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by the college.

5. **Question:** What does the scholarship pay for?

Answer: The scholarship combines with other state financial aid to cover the average tuition (at comparable public college rates), some fees, and a small book allowance.

6. **Question:** Where can students use the scholarship?

Answer: Students may earn an approved certificate or degree at one of Washington's eligible institutions, including public community and technical colleges, public four-year colleges and universities, independent colleges and universities, and private career colleges. A complete list of eligible schools can be found at www.collegebound.wa.gov.

7. **Question:** What is the funding for the scholarship?

Answer: The Legislature provided \$48 million in the 2013-15 biennium.

8. **Question:** How many students have applied for the program?

Answer: Since its inception, more than 187,000 students have applied. The last two years have seen the highest percentage of eligible 8th graders sign up: 80% in 2013-14 and 96% in 2014-15.

9. **Question:** Do College Bound students graduate at higher rates?

Answer: High school graduation rates for the first two cohorts of College Bound students were 79% in 2012 and 76% in 2013, respectively 19 and 15 percentage points higher than rates for their low-income peers.

10. **Question:** How many students are currently receiving the scholarship?

Answer: 8,228 students received the scholarship in 2013-14. This number represents both cohorts, high school graduates from 2012 and 2013.

11. **Question:** Where did College Bound students attend college?

Answer: A greater number than anticipated—50 percent—attended Washington public and private four-year institutions. Forty-eight percent attended public two-year colleges.

12. **Question:** Who are the partners that assist in signing up and supporting College Bound students?

Answer: The program works collaboratively with the K-12 system, state agencies, regional college access groups, and nonprofit organizations such as the College Success Foundation to sign students up and support them as they move through middle and high school.